

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 FEAE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-05 IO-04 L-01

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-02 SS-15 SP-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ARAE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/EP:SMPRINGLE

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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O 061658Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EINV, EC

SUBJECT: ADA CASE: ECUADOR PRESS REPORTS RE USG "INTER-
VENTION"

REF: QUITO 7445, 7447

1. ON NOVEMBER 1 CHARGE GABELA TOLD EP OFFICE DIRECTOR AND ECUADOR DESK OFFICER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED HIM ADA PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOE LAWS AND REGULATIONS. BECAUSE WE WERE BY THEN AWARE THAT GABELA HAD APPARENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD OR MISREPORTED ORIGINAL OCTOBER 11 CONVERSATION, WE MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM ON NOVEMBER 1 THAT ADA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN BIDDING ON THE CONCESSION, THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN ADA'S BEING INCLUDED IN THE BIDDING OR AWARDED THE CONCESSION, AND THAT USG INTEREST WAS LIMITED TO SATISFACTORY COMPENSATION. WE DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER AT THAT MEETING.

2. WHEN GABELA CAME TO DEPARTMENT ON OTHER MATTERS

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NOVEMBER 6, EP OFFICE DIRECTOR REFERRED TO EXPRESO STORY

REPORTED REF A. WE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD NOT IN ANY WAY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING GOE AWARD NEW CONCESSION CONTRACT TO ADA AND HAD LIMITED OUR REPRESENTATIONS EXCLUSIVELY TO EXPRESSING HOPE ADA COMPENSATION MATTER WOULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

GABELA EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NEWS OF EXPRESO STORY, STATING INTER ALIA THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF THAT PAPER. HE SAID THERE HAD CLEARLY BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING RE HIS REPORT ON OCTOBER 11 MEETING AND THAT HIS REPORT BEING MISINTERPRETED. HE CONFIRMED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD LIMITED ITS REPRESENTATION IN OCTOBER 11 MEETING TO QUESTION OF COMPENSATION AND HAD NOT REQUESTED OR DISCUSSED AWARDING OF CONCESSION TO ADA. HE SAID HE WOULD SEND TELEGRAM IMMEDIATELY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY CLARIFYING THIS POINT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUE CLARIFYING STATEMENT. IN PARTING, GABELA INDICATED CONCERN AT USE OF ADA MATTER IN CREATING PROBLEMS DURING LAST DAYS BEFORE MFM IN QUITO AND SAID THAT HE WOULD ALSO CALL FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY.

3. IN VIEW OF MANNER IN WHICH APPARENT ORIGINAL MISUNDERSTANDING ON GABELA'S PART BEING EXAGGERATED AND DISTORTED AND OF GABELA'S DESIRE SEE MATTER CLARIFIED, REQUEST YOU FOLLOW UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, COMPENSATION, ALLEGATIONS, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE244316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMPRINGLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-0969
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741165/aaaacdln.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: QUITO 7445, 7447
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADA CASE: ECUADOR PRESS REPORTS RE USG "INTER- VENTION"
TAGS: PGOV, EINV, EC, US, ADA, (GABELA)
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005